The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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MUSSOLINI'S ANTI-STRIKE LAW IS UNFITTED FOR FREE PEOPLE

Washington, Sept. 10.—"Is it not better for a free people to make mistakes than to install a Mussolini?" asks Julius H. Barnes, well-known business man, writing in Nation's Business on "An Answer to Mussolini's Challenge."

Nation's Business is published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

"I would be the last to say that strikes are to be desired," says Mr. Barnes, "but I can at least raise this question: Do you want to see a government department or departments armed with full power to settle industrial disputes or to make economic rulings? There are those who defend the Mussolini regime on the theory that the end justifies the means, but is it not better to blunder now and then so long as the blunder be made by free people, working freely together, than to escape that blunder by the edict of government?"

Mr. Barnes' views are opposite from those expressed in 1919 by men like Governor Allen of Kansas, and United States Senators Poindexter and Myers, who urged anti-strike laws and compulsory arbitration.

Mr. Barnes says America "can meet, point for point, in the realm of material achievement, this challenge of Mussolini by comparison not only with Italy under that regime, but as well with any other people in the world.

"With Mussolini government is itself the arbiter and director of private enterprise, even though he recognizes that the driving power of individual initiative must in some way be enlisted to conduct business enterprise outside entirely of the stifling atmosphere of state bureaucracy. He prescribes the rules of labor. He directs the practices of employers. He leaves little or nothing to individual judgment and he has no belief whatever in that faulty but aspiring human judgment which learns by its own failures and thus strengthens itself for new endeavor.

"More seriously yet, government with him is not, as with us, the orderly expressed will of a majority of its citizens. He derides the idea of a responsible government expressed through the individual vote of each citizen."

PROPOSED WHEAT POOL FLOUTS 'NATURAL' LAW

Washington, Sept. 10.—"Private initiative" and the "inexorable law of supply and demand" are again challenged by the administration's favorable attitude toward a national wheat pool to handle approximately 300,000,000 bushels of wheat annually.

Middle men and mill owners now strive to drive wheat onto the market immediately following the harvest. This depresses prices. That is the law of supply and demand operates.

It is proposed that wheat farmers turn their product over to a gigantic pool that will "feed" the wheat to the market as prices and conditions warrant. The plan will be financed by the Intermediate Credit Bank, a semi-governmental institution.

Similar pools have had varying success. The failures have been traced to members who violate their pledge and sell their commodity when they believe prices have reached their height. This policy causes a general collapse of the pool, or "union."

The Canadian Cooperative Wheat Producers the largest pool of its kind in the world, has checked strikebreaking tendencies by securing the passage of a law which provides that when a wheat grower pledges to turn his product over to the pool, this agreement is enforceable, just as any other contract.

REDS PLAY OLD TRICK; HAVE "STICKY FINGERS"

New York, Sept. 10.—Aldino Felicani of Boston, who organized the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee, charges Communists with being more interested in spreading their propaganda than in saving the lives of the two men.

The Communists played the old game of collecting money and then charging it to "expense" rather than using it for the purposes that donors intended.

New York Communists organized a defense committee and admit collecting nearly $7,000. The "expenses" for collecting this amount is reported as more $7,000, and the Party Communists voted $300 "out of their treasury."

Felicani says his committee knows nothing of the $500,000 which the International Press Correspondence, published in Europe, and spokesman for the Communist Internationale, claims was raised to aid Sacco and Vanzetti.

The A. P. C. stated that American Communists raised this vast amount, as "proof of their success in trade union work."

POSTPONE RENT ISSUE

Walsen, Col., Sept. 10.—Employes of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company have again discovered the purposes of a "union" that is maintained by this concern.

Rents for houses owned by the company have been increased, and a protest was made by the "union." The matter was postponed until the next meeting. Instead the increase was levied by the employes and the matter was again presented. The company justified the increase and an "investigation" was ordered by a resolution introduced by the general superintendent and seconded by another company official.

This disposed of the "principal business" and the "union" adjourned. Wages continue lower than in the union fields.

HOUSING BILL SIGNED

New York, Sept. 10.—Acting Mayor McKee signed the Walker housing bill, despite protests by real estate owners.

The bill is designed to help the elimination of slums by permitting the city to lease for housing purposes land condemned in connection with street widening projects. The law will be submitted to the referendum.

SECRECY IS REJECTED BY STRIKING MINERS

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 10.—Failing to secure a secret agreement with the union, the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation is conducting a terrorizing campaign among striking miners and would blame the unionists for this lawlessness.

These charges are made by officers of the United Mine Workers in answering the company's plea for an injunction.

Frank X. Taplin, a principal stockholder of the company, sought to make the secret agreement. The mines would be operated by union labor at a rate 50 cents below the present wage. Taplin said he was attempting to secure control of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, another anti-union concern that broke the Jacksonville agreement. If the miners accepted the Taplin proposal and returned to work, the Terminal Corporation would re-establish the "check-off" system, would collect dues from the miners and turn same over to the union's representatives. This would aid the union in their fight against the Pittsburgh Coal Company, which Taplin and his associates are attempting to control. The miners rejected the secret agreement.

The unionists also charge that disorders in the coal strike zone of western Pennsylvania have been caused by "the aggressive and overbearing manner of the coal and iron police employed by the coal company against striking miners."

UNEMPLOYMENT DATA ASKED FOR BY GREEN

Washington, Sept. 10.—A request for unemployment data has been made of President Green by secretaries of local unions in 18 industrial centers of this country.

"There has been no attempt to ascertain the extent of increasing unemployment which is reported in many localities," said Mr. Green.

"Because such trends are of vital significance to trade unions I ask your assistance to have regular information on this subject. My plan is simple and involves little work on the part of those cooperating: Fill the enclosed post card with the proper figures after the first of September and mail.

"I am making this request of local unions in 18 industrial centers. My office will tabulate the returns and they will be available for those who wish to know unemployment trends. Each month I will send you a report blank asking you to fill in the same data, always for the first of the month. We will soon have important data that will help us to plan as individuals and as union members."

NEW AIR MAIL SERVICE PRIVATELY OPERATED

Washington, Sept. 10.—After proving the feasibility of an air mail service, the Government turned this system over to private contractors. The Government did the pioneering, which was marked by the death of many aviators. Express service will also be included in the air mail service.

SIX DAYS FOR CAR MEN

Portland, Ore., Sept. 10.—A six-day week agreement has been ratified by the Street Car Men's Union and the Portland Electric Power Company. The system was installed September 1.

Trade Unions Develop Freedom, Green Tells Eastern Churchmen

Boston, Sept. 10.—"The church has proclaimed the doctrine of individual responsibility and this can only be exercised through freedom of action and freedom of conscience," said William Green, president of the A. F. of L. in a Labor Sunday address before a union meeting of the Protestant churches of Hyde Park, near here.

"Every man must be the architect of his own destiny and master of his own soul. He can not exercise these individual prerogatives if he is, at any time, subjected to a condition of servitude," said Mr. Green. "Human slavery and human subjection has failed wherever the searching light of Christian truth has shed its rays. Every step in human progress and each period of the world's history is marked with conflict resulting from the attempt of rulers and despots to exercise lordship, control and ownership over others. The exercise of such power excites opposition from those who insist on human freedom. Nowhere is this fact exemplified more than in the experience of the men and women of labor.

"Attempts to exercise economic control over working people have caused many bitter industrial conflicts. These conflicts have caused much suffering and engendered hate. They have divided employers and employes into hostile camps and have caused each group to feel that industrial strife is normal and that employes and employers are the differences are insurmountable.

"This development has caused deep concern to men whose lives are devoted to the promotion of peace and understanding. They have felt that there is a common basis upon which the production forces in industry can stand and a point of understanding that can be reached. Men are thinking in terms of concord and cooperation, although in the very nature of things industry will develop problems difficult of solution."

INPROVED MACHINERY PRESENTS NEW ISSUE

Montauk Beach, N. Y., Sept. 10.—The ever increasing improvement in machinery, together with the invention of new processes, will compel the country to consider the problem of workers who are made jobless by these new methods, said Secretary of Labor Davis in a Labor Day speech here.

Usually, he said, the creation of new industries kept pace with the improvements in machinery, but recently the number of new inventions has been so great that considerable unemployment has resulted.

"The greatest evils which we are likely to suffer in the future, so far as labor is concerned, are connected with the subject of unemployment," said the cabinet member. "We Americans are justly proud of our marvelous mechanical and industrial progress. Every day sees the perfection of some new mechanical miracle that enables one man to do faster and more quickly what many men used to do.

"In the last six years, in particular, our march ahead in the lavish use of power has been tremendous. No sooner is it put to use than the question remains: What is this machinery doing to us?

"While we should continue to think of our wonderful machines we must also think of our wonderful American workers. To do not, we must see discontent on our hands. This amazing industrial organization we have built up in this country must not be allowed to get in its own way."

Mr. Davis said he was certain American ingenuity would see that the machines that create wealth did not also create poverty.

ILLINOIS COAL MINERS CHARGE STRIKE BRIBE

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 10.—Who bribed Illinois coal miners to stage a wild cat strike?

John W. Smith, one of the leaders of the strike, makes affidavit he was paid $140 to persuade workers to walk out. Smith named a number of other miners who were involved. The United Mine Workers has secured settlements with several coal owners.

The larger coal companies oppose the union.

WILL BANKERS URGE TARIFF REDUCTION?

Rapid City, S. D., Sept. 10.—The President has intimated to international bankers in this country that they clarify their position on the removal of "trade barriers."

The bankers have loaned $12,000,000,000 to Europe. This is exclusive of war debts. Interest on these loans can only be paid in gold or by the sale of goods. As the tariff is a barrier to the entrance of these goods, the bankers' desires are hinting that lower duties is desirable.

Several months ago international bankers in this country issued a manifesto that was issued from London in which a demand was made for the removal of trade barriers throughout the world. The Americans later declared they signed merely as "an act of courtesy," but the agitation for the principle announced in the manifesto continues.

While the struggle is being waged underneath the surface, it is quite probable that it will eventually be publicly advanced. If so, this will mark a cleavage in the Republican Party in the East, and may be a factor in the selection of the Republican nominee.

UNIONS AT PEACE

Washington, Sept. 10.—After long differences over jurisdictional claims an agreement covered by the bricklayers' and plasterers' international unions is effective. The adjustment was made through a conference called by William Green, president of the A. F. of L. Interchangeable cards between the two unions shall be recognized and members of either union accused of working on an unfair job may have a hearing before their cards are canceled.

MUSICIANS RAISE WAGES

Washington, Sept. 10.—A three-year contract with improved conditions has been secured by organized musicians. Negotiations continued for more than two months.

TO HOLD, ONE MUST FIRST RECEIVE

Orrin C. Lester, vice president of the Bowery Savings Bank, New York City, is alarmed at the number of "economic illiterates" in this country.

"We are a great people, to boast in aggregates," he said, "yet of the $89,060,000,000 annual income of the American public we find that only $1,000 per family is the saving. The biggest economic problem is to have the average American family get enough together to provide for common needs when age and other causes halt steady income production."

The banker assumes every producer has an income that will permit him to "get together" an amount necessary to protect him in old age.

The Lester plan should interest 200,000 railroad laborers, whom, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us, received an average wage of $17 a week in 1926. Lumber workers would also be interested. They received a national average of $17.17 a week, and in some districts their rate was as low as $10.48.

In bituminous mining the national average for inside laborers was $22.78 and $23.58 for outside laborers.

The bureau cites other industries wherein workers are not paid a living wage, while "prosperity" shriekers talk of "high" wages and bankers advise workers to save for the proverbial rainy day.

ACCIDENTS IN INDUSTRY INCREASE; EMPLOYERS IGNORE HUMAN WASTE

Washington, Sept. 10.—Industrial accidents are increasing because employers consider their responsibility has been met when they carry compensation insurance.

This is one of the findings of the Committee on Safety and Production of the American Engineering Council, following a study of the relationship between industrial safety and production. Data was secured in 1925 from more than 14,000 companies, employing 2,500,000 workers or approximately one-fourth of the country's industrial employes.

The engineers state that "many industrial executives have not given to accident prevention that degree of attention and direction that its economic and humanitarian significance warrants."

The rate of accident severity per man hour was 2.5 per cent higher in 1925 than in 1922 and minor accidents account for a larger amount of productive time and value lost than is generally recognized.

Money-Controlled Press Is Fact; British Jurist Hints Of Treason

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 10.—A money-controlled press is a menace to popular government, declared Lord Hewart, Lord Chief Justice of England, in an address before the American Bar Association.

The British jurist said that a contest has been waged for the past 30 years between the editorial and the business offices of many newspapers, and "it appeared in many cases that the contest has been decided in favor of the business department." He inquired why, if this were true, "the law should exhibit any special tenderness toward the press."

The speaker intimated that it is treason for newspapers to mislead the people or suppress news when the people depend upon accurate information to form judgments.

"I should like very briefly to refer to a change which seems to have taken place in the character and the aims of the newspaper press," said Lord Hewart. "It goes without saying that the self-government is to be a real living thing, the citizens to share the responsibility of governing, that is to say, all the citizens, ought at least to have access to information upon public affairs, which is both accurate and adequate.

"One of the instruments for that purpose is, or at any rate ought to be, the newspaper press. You can not expect the right verdict from a jury if the evidence is not fairly and squarely laid before it.

"To put the matter the other way round, is it not really a kind of treason against the political sovereign deliberately to mislead the public either by active misrepresentation or by calculated suppression?"

Lord Hewart expressed these views on the money-controlled press while discussing Communism and the efforts of revolutionists to overthrow government. He laid it down as a philosophical principle that the administration of justice is of greater importance to a people than anything else.

"Where there are just laws, administered without fear or favor, by free and incorruptible and impartial judges, there is not much cause to fear popular outbreak," Lord Hewart said.

BLUE SUNDAY URGED TO STOP CRIME WAVE

Washington, Sept. 10.—The blue law agitation will be renewed at the next session of Congress, which convenes the first Monday in December. The reformers will urge a tight Sunday for the District of Columbia and will seek to have this measure adopted by States.

The bills will provide for "a day of rest in the District of Columbia," close barber shops, and prohibit public dancing, theaters and commercial sports.

MACHINE PICKS COTTON

Chicago, Sept. 10.—A machine that picks cotton has been invented by engineers employed by the International Harvester Company.

Two men can operate the machine, according to the announcement, and can pick with it from two to five bales a day. This is equivalent to what two men could do by hand in

CRITIC OF FASCIMO HELD BY MUSSOLINI

Rome, Sept. 10.—Mussolini does not intend to let foes escape his control.

For the third time he has refused to permit Guglielmo Ferrero attend a world conference in Geneva. Ferrero is Italy's leading historian. He was not allowed to leave Italy last February for a lecture tour in the United States.

"The government seems to fear my passing the frontier," Dr. Ferrero wrote at that time. "For the moment I am virtually a prisoner in Italy. You can judge what rich fruits have been reaped for our liberty by the great war."

COAL OWNERS BANKRUPT; LOW WAGE SYSTEM FAILS

Indianapolis, Sept. 10.—"There are more coal companies in the hands of receivers in West Virginia than in any other State, according to Ellis Searles, editor of the United Mine Workers' Journal.

These coal companies have shouted for low wages, they have repudiated their contracts with the union, have worked miners without number and employed hundreds of gunmen to maintain starvation levels.

Now bankruptcy is the rule throughout the State, while business men, who lined up with the coal owners, are also in a desperate condition.

"The coal industry in West Virginia is shot to pieces," says Editor Searles.

MOVIE OPERATORS WIN, SIX-DAY STRIKE ENDS

Chicago, Sept. 10.—Movie operators in this city won their six-days' lockout and strike, although the managers claim the dispute was compromised. The operators yielded part of their wage demands. Two operators, whose discharge started the trouble, have been reinstated. When the manager refused to grant this demand, other houses owned by the same company were closed. The exhibitors retaliated by closing all theaters in the city, and film exchanges joined the managers by refusing films to any theater that remained open.

The exhibitors and other business men lost thousands of dollars through the unionists' solidarity and their success in stopping victimization.

ICE DRIVERS ORGANIZE

Hot Springs, Ark., Sept. 10.—Ice wagon drivers in this city organized and are chartered by the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

BUSINESS DISCARDS OLD THEORY; LESS OIL OUTPUT NOW FAVORED

Washington, Sept. 10.—Federal legislation to control the production of privately owned oil is another change on the industrial field that is being silently installed.

A few years ago a national political campaign was waged for "less government in business." A reform in the era of private initiative and individual effort was urged. This policy seems to have been forgotten.

Increased oil output endangers prices and has wiped out millions of profits. To check wild-catting, oil operators in Oklahoma, led by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the country's largest oil-producing unit, appointed an oil czar to check production in that territory. He was given large powers and is assisted by what business men frankly term a "shut-down committee." The plan has been only partly successful, but the principle has been established without objection by the press, the public or politicians.

It is now proposed to have a federal law restrict the output of oil. That the national administration favors the plan was indicated by Secretary of the Interior Work in an address before the American Bar Association convention at Buffalo.

As oil wells are under the jurisdiction of the various States, this commodity can not be controlled under the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution until it is placed in tank cars and actually enters interstate commerce. To overcome this legal obstacle it is proposed that new legislation be based on national defense and the need to conserve oil for the navy, for the airplane fleet, the motorized army and for industrial establishments in times of war.

If the production of oil can be regulated in the various States by the Federal Government under the plea of national defense, why, it is asked, can not this principle be applied to coal, iron ore, lumber, copper, and other essentials for a successful war?

The changed attitude of oil owners and the administration is an interesting study by those who note new viewpoints of capitalists who only recently called for "less government in business."

Powerful Lobby Is Being Formed To Wipe Out Inheritance Tax

Washington, Sept. 10.—The largest tax lobby in the nation's history is being mobilized here to have Congress repeal the Federal estate or inheritance tax this winter.

The lobby is directed by the American Taxpayers' League, with former Congressman Frank W. Mondell as general counsel.

If the tax is repealed and the matter left to individual States, it will be an easy matter to have State legislatures repeal such legislation on the ground that States like Florida is attracting millionaires because it has a constitutional provision against an inheritance tax.

The question was before the last Congress. Leading opponents are Congressman Green of Iowa, majority leader of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Jack Garner of Texas, minority leader of the same committee.

Both men charge that the movement for repeal, if successful, will next turn upon the States and have them remove all inheritance taxes. They prevented repeal by the last Congress and they say they will block it again.

An inheritance tax can not be passed on as other taxes, and wealthy influences are strengthening their lines to overwhelm Congress. An efficient propaganda machine is also being developed.

PINCH-PENNY ECONOMY MAY MEAN MORE CLERKS

Washington, Sept. 10.—Another triumph in national economy has been recorded.

Uncle Sam saved $2.32 by the comptroller general's office disallowing that amount for cab fare to a clerk in the office of the ambassador to Chile.

The clerk worked until 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning on several occasions. He lives in the suburbs of the capital of Chile and hired a cab to go home and charged it to the Government. The ambassador O. K.'d the bill on the ground that his clerk "had to pass through a district where I can honestly say he was in peril of his life, or at least of being waylaid and robbed."

The bill was rejected when it reached Washington. The comptroller's office held, "In so far as the legality of such expenditures is concerned, it is not material that they were incurred by overtime service."

The clerk is shocked at Uncle Sam's lack of appreciation for his official service, and the ambassador may employ an extra clerk, which will cost him much more than the small amount involved.

But the principle of national economy has been sustained.

PEOPLE LIVE LONGER; BAD FOR UNDERTAKER

Atlantic City, Sept. 10.—Improved living conditions is wrecking the undertaking business and something must be done, according to Secretary Guerke's report to the annual convention of the Maryland State Funeral Directors' Association.

"The undertaking profession is overcrowded, and the death rate is not high enough," Mr. Guerke. His only solution is "for some of us to migrate into other lines of work."

ANARCHISTS IN HIGH PLACES SHOULD NOT BE UNCHECKED

Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 10.—The anarchist in high places who would secretly destroy government should be watched as is the anarchist with bombs, declared Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., in a Labor Day speech here.

The labor official referred to the Teapot Dome conspiracy, the attempt to "grab" harbors and methods employed in western Pennsylvania to defeat the coal miners in his discussion of anarchists in both camps.

"In time we used plain language," said Secretary Morrison. "It is time that the powerful and influential anarchists be placed in his proper position—that he is an enemy of government, and that popular rule can not endure if they are blind and indifferent to outrages of one kind and imagine they have done their duty by only watching the kind of the peddler fish.

"The Teapot Dome incident has a direct bearing on trade unionism, for the defenders of the Teapot Dome scandal are the same men who defend the company "union," the "yellow dog" contract, the labor injunction and who oppose the direct primary. Each of these questions are interwoven by men who would destroy popular rule and who would, step by step, set up an industrial and a political oligarchy.

"The miners' strike in the bituminous fields is so linked up with the welfare of the country that it can not escape the attention of every citizen who believes in our institutions.

"The miners are well aware of the many ills with which this industry is afflicted. They have a remedy for them, but Mr. Guerke can not be applied except when both sides acknowledge mutual interests. This the coal operators refuse to concede. They are determined to enforce their starvation policy and the miners are just as determined to enforce living standards. A starvation wage is no solution for the present mining situation.

"These thousands of miners have been on strike since the first of April. They refuse to accept wage standards that prevail in the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky. If they accept this standard operators in the non-union fields will lower wage rates to maintain their present differential. The union operators would then lower their rates, and this would be followed by still another reduction in the non-union fields.

"To state this question is to show its inhumanity and disregard for the welfare of workers who are indispensable to society."

UNIONS CONTINUE WAR ON BRITISH STATUTE

London, England, Sept. 10.—The Conservative party is not realizing its hope that opposition to the anti-trade union act will die down on the adjournment of Parliament. Several minor disputes have been adjusted favorably to the workers, but the unionists are not fooled.

Clause One of the act remains in full rigor. Under this clause the attorney general may ask any court for an injunction against a strike whenever he believes such strike "is designed to coerce the government" or to inflict hardship upon the community.

As "coercion" and "hardship" are undefinable terms, the right to cease work is placed in the hands of a government official.

Harry Gosling, president of the Transport and General Workers' Union, declares that the government has killed every chance for peace, while Premier Baldwin and his associates make flowery speeches on the necessity for harmony and good will in industry.

"We must resist and reverse any attempt to create the slaving sentiment of workers from those who are weak and oppressed," said Mr. Gosling. "No Parliament, no government, no ruling authority can succeed in separating the working community into watertight compartments that prevent the hand of friendship being extended from the strong to the weak. We would be very poor mortals if we allowed ourselves to be driven into such a condition."

EDITOR BARRY IS DEAD; FRIEND OF UNION LABOR

San Francisco, Sept. 10.—James H. Barry, for years editor of the San Francisco Star, passed away at his home in this city after half a century in the fight for civic righteousness.

Progressive laws of this State and many Federal laws of the same character were favored by him. In the pioneer days of organized labor he espoused the workers' cause. He was the first employing printer in this city to recognize the Typographical Union and the first to grant the eight-hour day.

CHILD COURTS UPHELD

New York, Sept. 10.—Child courts were given a wide latitude by Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer of the Bronx Children's Court in a decision which defines these courts as instruments for the "guidance and correction of neglected and delinquent children."

It is not the purpose of these courts, the decision says, to try and to punish youthful law violators.

FARM VALUES TUMBLE

Washington, Sept. 10.—Farm lands continue to fall, with many farms for sale and buyers few and cautious, says the Department of Agriculture.

Present values are about at the level of 1917 values, being placed at 119 per cent of the pre-war level, while 1926 values were 169 per cent of the pre-war level.

IRON WORKERS UNITE

Allentown, Pa., Sept. 10.—Structural iron workers have organized and are affiliated to the regular trade union movement.